

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Attorney Docket No. 4492P1003US; Client No. P96-0010US4)

Applicant: Bleck, Martin C. et al

For: ELECTRODE SEMICONDUCTOR WORKPIECE HOLDER AND
PROCESSING METHODS

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: March 16, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the present application in the following manner prior to substantive examination thereof.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, insert before line 1 - This application is a continuation of USSN 09/300,610,
filed April 27, 1999, which is a continuation of USSN 08/680,057, filed July 15, 1996. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice and at the following as new claims 8-15.

8. A workpiece processing method comprising:

positioning an electrode against a workpiece surface, said electrode having an electrode tip
having a sheath, said sheath having a sheath tip rim;